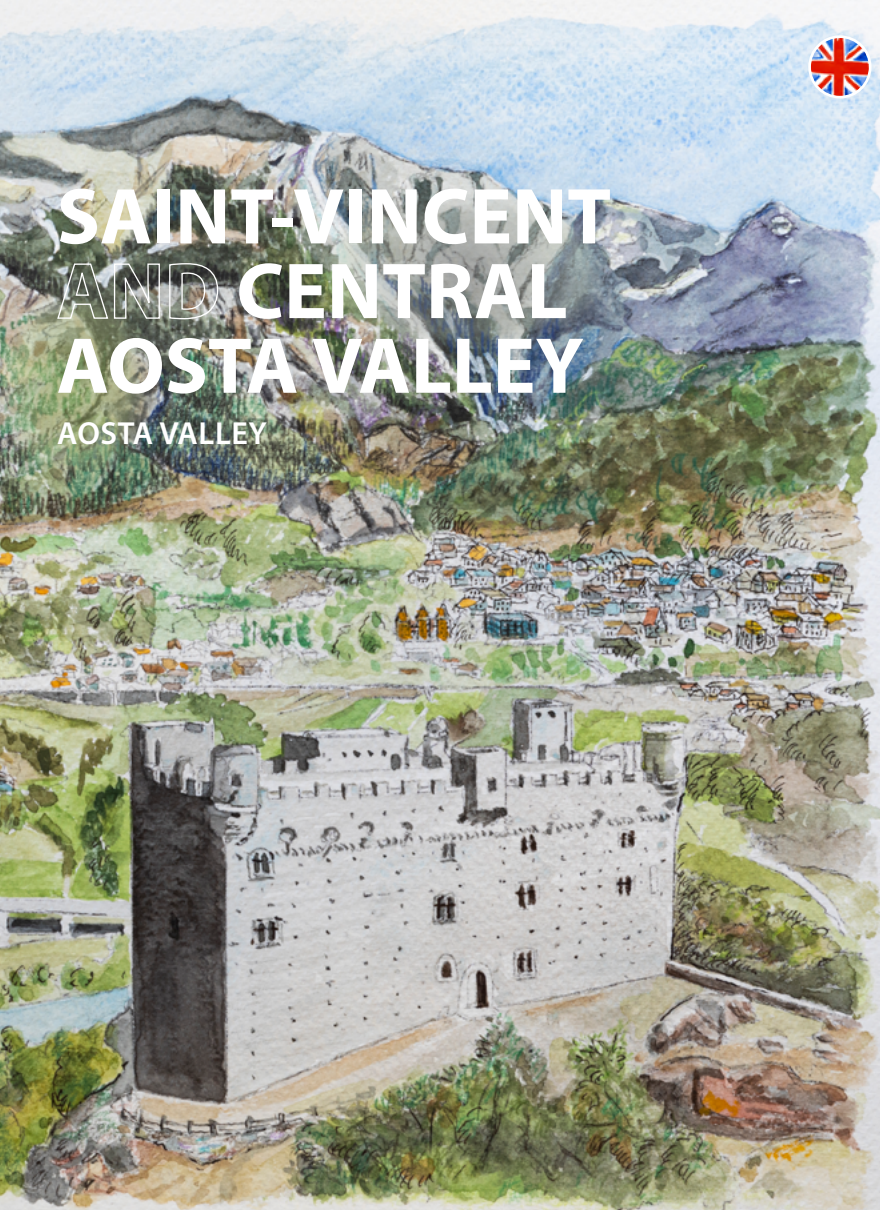




SAINT-VINCENT AND CENTRAL AOSTA VALLEY

AOSTA VALLEY





Monte Zerbion

Casino

Ussel Castle



AOSTA VALLEY

SAINT-VINCENT AND CENTRAL AOSTA VALLEY

A MOUNTAIN JEWEL

And I believed nature was a graceful damsel with dishevelled hair and clear eyes, and that this valley was her green necklace, interwoven with jade and emerald! Sinuous and soft, moulded by thousands of years of splendour, it delicately weaves its way through fertile hills. In each pearl swirl the dancing hues of indestructible stone and silky grass, silvery waters and juicy wine.

It's here that Mother Nature walks barefoot and with each step she takes trees and lakes, mountains and springs emerge, while her sweet breath is a warm breeze that protects villages from icy winds...

Find full updated information on sites of interest (opening times, details, initiatives...) by visiting www.lovevda.it »



THE BLOOMING OF MILD FULLNESS

Picture a balmy summer's evening in a small mountain village: the main street is lit by soft street lamps and on the horizon the sunset is daubing gold and scarlet onto ribbons of clouds.

There, along the stone-paved streets, festive cheers, joyful music and snatches of conversation blend with the clinking of glasses, children's laughter and the sound of an audience applauding a show in the village square. On their way to the casino, the well-to-do stroll by in alluring garments, while others enjoy the benefits of a day spent soaking in rejuvenating thermal spa waters.

This enchanting picture is a true-to-life snapshot of Saint-Vincent, fondly called the "Riviera of the Alps". It's a town renown for hosting famous celebrities and champion football teams, for its exquisite pastries and the sacred mountain towering behind - Monte Zerbion, a natural panoramic viewpoint overlooking the colossal rock giants of Europe.

Saint-Vincent is the ideal departure point for exploring the central Aosta Valley, a land of rare beauty where the gaze is enraptured by the sight of bold manor houses and beguiling strongholds, where towers are scattered as liberally as legends.

It's impossible not to mention Fénis castle which, with its stone petticoats and battlements, appears to have escaped from a fairytale. Or even the castle named after Baron Gamba, with its picturesque English landscape garden where monumental trees whisper the secrets of a heart-wrenching love story.

It's another sort of passion that drives Chambave winegrowers, whose hills swathed in amber vines fill barrels with some of the most prestigious DOC wines of the region every year.

These skills of the land recur among village mills and bread ovens, and along Pontey's golden Strada del Sole, where abandoned ancient millstones emerge from rocky cliffs like gems.

With its enchanted waters that turn green, its sparkling mines laden with treasures, and its evocative gardens, trust me when I say that you'll never stop discovering the wonders of this valley.

Bonjour, I'm François, your guide!

Hey there, traveller! What a pleasure to meet you on my long, tiring journey!

Pardon? Do you want to know who I am?

Look carefully – see my dusty clothes and well-trod shoes. My skin may be scorched by the sun but the air with which I embrace the world is devout and cheerful.



The Central Aosta Valley is a crossroads of legendary routes used by thousands of pilgrims over the centuries to reach Rome and numerous local shrines. In fact, the Via Francigena and Roman Road to Gaul both wend their way between Saint-Vincent and Châtillon where Roman remains are still visible today.

Have you guessed?

That's right, I'm a pilgrim! Why don't you come with me some of the way? You'll keep me company and, step by step, past gentle hills and along shady mule tracks, I'll show you the ancient Via Francigena and shrines that nestle among the mountains...

VIA
FRANCIGENA



François
your guide



Moron Church



NOT TO BE MISSED

CHAMBAVE VINEYARDS, COL DE JOUX,
GAMBA CASTLE, MONTE ZERBION,
SAINT-VINCENT TOWN CENTRE



NOT TO BE MISSED

CHAMBAVE VINEYARDS

GRAPES WITH A SECULAR FLAVOUR

Nestling side by side, the hills of Chambave afford a mellow view, like green mother hens busily protecting the town with their soft wooded claws.

Here, among gentle grassy rises reside the region's famous vineyards which burst into a riot of emerald in spring and summer, turn shades of copper in autumn, and then clothe in a dusting of white snow in winter. Renown DOC wines, including highly regarded Muscat de Chambave are produced from the grapes grown here.



« Aerial view of vineyard
Chambave

COL DE JOUX

THE ENCHANTING BOUNDARY



The mountain pass separating Val d'Ayas and Saint-Vincent is a spectacular boundary swathed in pleasant forests and suggestive meadows with a view reaching as far as the turquoise waters of the River Dora Baltea and jagged heights of Mont Blanc.

Adventurous excursions to surrounding peaks unwind amidst immortal firs and tapered larches, along with enjoyable walks through quaint villages and lakes the colour of periwinkle. In summer this pass blooms into a network of trails that are perfect for cycle rides, while in winter become a snowy paradise.

Lake at Col de Joux »
Saint-Vincent





NOT TO BE MISSED

GAMBA CASTLE

A TIMELESS LOVE

This charming castle resulted from the heart-wrenching love story between a Valdostan countess and a Piedmontese baron. Although the lives of these young lovers were shattered by cruel fate, the bond uniting them lives on among the high stone walls and decorated wood panelling.



This twentieth-century mansion surrounded by an aura of romanticism smiles at the sunny peaks from its mighty rocky perch, encircled by a delightful park containing extraordinarily beautiful exotic trees. Today the castle hosts exhibitions, educational workshops and a valuable art collection.

« Gamba Castle
Châtillon

MONTE ZERBION

HIGHER AND HIGHER

You'll feel on top of the world when your wonder-filled eyes caress the snowy summits of the Matterhorn, Monte Rosa, Mont Blanc and Gran Paradiso. A shot of adrenaline will hit you the instant your gaze rests on the endless expanses of Val d'Ayas and distant outline of the central valley, disappearing among villages, lanes and shimmering lakes.



This area can boast no better viewpoint than Monte Zerbion whose summit, inhabited by solemn ibex and protected by a silent, sacred sentinel, can be reached in many ways.

Saint-Germain Castle, in the
background Monte Zerbion »
Saint-Vincent





NOT TO BE MISSED

SAINT-VINCENT TOWN CENTRE

LIVELY AND COSMOPOLITAN

A long street sprinkled with colourful shop windows, smart restaurants, jovial venues: their outdoor seating and live music invite customers to spend evenings in the open air, enjoy shows put on in lively Piazza Cavalieri di Vittorio Veneto, have an ice-cream while sauntering along the tree-lined avenue that meanders towards the casino and fairytale Hotel Billia, or towards the church and then go up to the spa complex.



This is the centre of Saint-Vincent - the pulsing heart of social and village life, a friendly corner of the world where entertainment and simplicity blend together.

« Piazza Cavalieri
di Vittorio Veneto
Saint-Vincent



Snowshoeing to Saint-Evence

A DAY, A WEEKEND, A WEEK

HOW TO ORGANISE YOUR VISIT

With so much to see and do in Saint-Vincent and Central Aosta Valley the temptation to stay a few days longer is almost irresistible.

Where to go? What to see? Here's some advice on how to get the most out of your holiday and turn it into a genuine travel itinerary. You can customize the recommended itineraries - feel free to include or remove any visits according to your time schedule, interests and spur-of-the-moment decisions!

24
HOURS

1 day

48
HOURS

2 days

168
HOURS

1 week

Cly Castle »
Saint-Denis



RECOMMENDED VISITS

SAINT-VINCENT AND CENTRAL AOSTA VALLEY IN ONE DAY

DAY ONE

1 Historical centre of Saint-Vincent

A walk immersed in the history of Saint-Vincent: take a visit to 20th-century Hotel Billia located along elegant Viale Piemonte, then to Piazza Cavalieri di Vittorio Veneto - the town's pulsing heart -, continue to the parish church, archaeological site, Roman bridge and mineralogy museum.

2 A tasty break with traditional *torcetti* biscuits

In the late morning drop into a pastry shop and try these delicious traditional biscuits.

4 Traditional supper in a town centre restaurant

Restore your energies by treating yourself to a supper based on traditional local products in one of the town centre's many restaurants.

3 Saint-Vincent Thermal Spa

After lunch treat yourself to a relaxing afternoon in the spa pools, Jacuzzis, saunas and Turkish bath!

5 Evening out at the Casinò

You can't stay in Saint-Vincent without dropping into its famous, glitzy gaming house.



RECOMMENDED VISITS

SAINT-VINCENT AND CENTRAL AOSTA VALLEY IN A WEEKEND

DAY TWO

1

Col de Joux
and Sommarèse

Begin the day with an evocative hike to the heart of the countryside: take the unpaved road leading from Col de Joux (1,640 metres) to Sommarèse, in the municipality of Emarèse.

For a little over an hour this easy walk takes you along the Great Balcony of the Matterhorn trail (107), which winds amongst larch and spruce trees, affording an enchanting vista over the central valley and some of the Aosta Valley's majestic peaks. From here you can also reach Col Tzecore, where you can stop and rest at the picnic area.

2

Gamba Castle
and park

Having concluded your outing, it's now time to stimulate the intellect, so taking a visit to Gamba Castle is an absolute must. The exhibition itinerary is rich in art works of timeless charm and includes paintings, sculptures, drawings, installations and photographs.

At the end of the tour, enjoy the sunshine in the surrounding English-style park, which contains some extraordinary monumental trees.



SAINT-VINCENT AND CENTRAL AOSTA VALLEY IN A WEEK

5 MORE DAYS

1

Nature

Wondrous sights and marvels

Ru Courtod/Courthoud and the tunnels (1A), 6th stage of Cammino Balteo from Saint-Vincent to Challand-Saint-Victor (1B), 7th stage of Cammino Balteo from Saint-Vincent to La Magdeleine (1C).

2

Outdoors / summer

The proud beauty of the mountains

Via Francigena (2A), Dora Baltea nature itinerary (2B), along the Great Balcony of the Matterhorn from Col de Joux to Col Tzecure on foot or by e-bike (2C), e-biking from Chambave to Colle San Pantaleone (2D), pony trekking from Saint-Vincent to Ussel Castle (2E).

3

Culture and traditions

A glimpse of bygone life

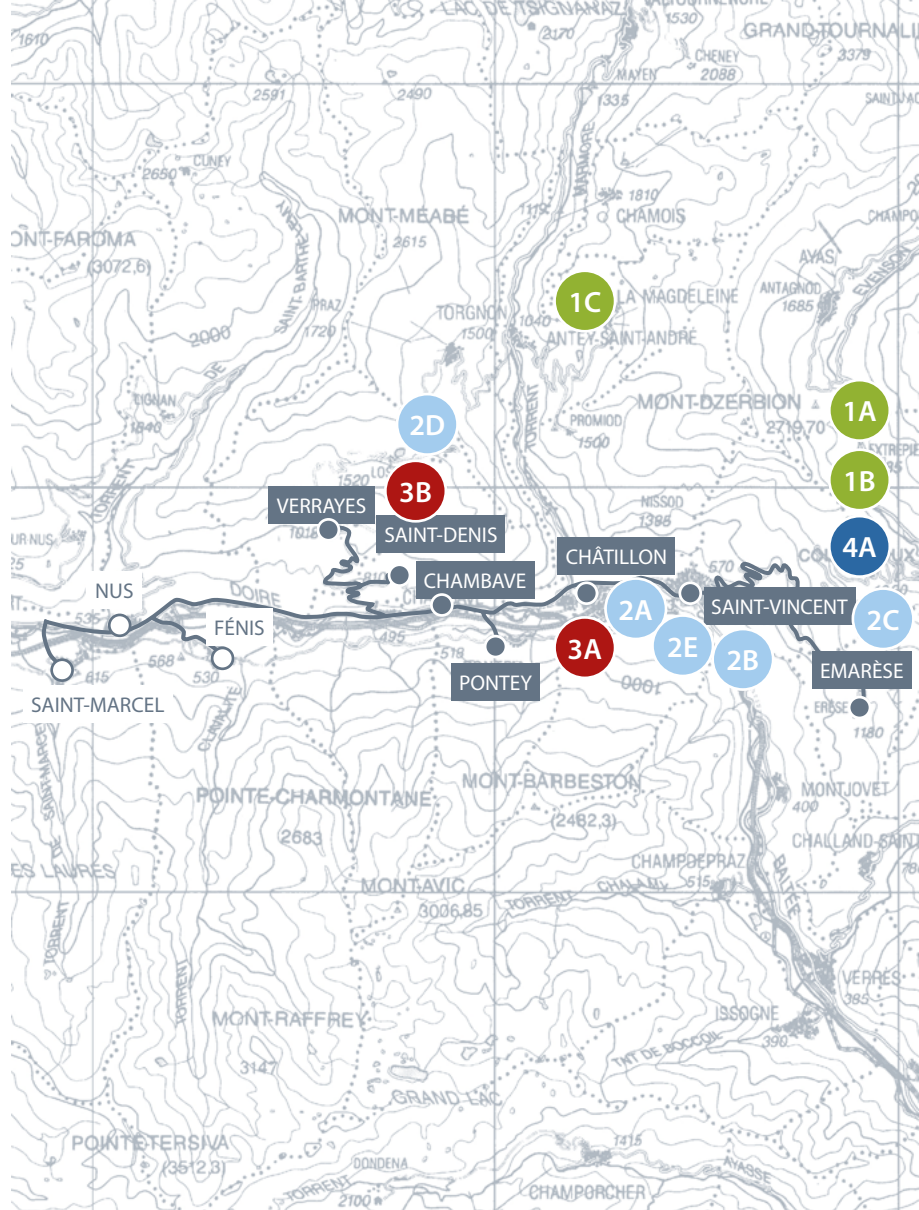
Ussel Castle (3A), Cly Castle (3B).

4

Outdoor / winter

The irresistible appeal of snow

Col de Joux (4A).





Riviera of the Alps

THEMATIC FOCUS

NATURE, OUTDOOR, FOOD AND WINE,
CULTURE AND TRADITIONS,
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



UNSPOILT SITES

AN ENDLESS GARDEN

It's not necessary to climb the highest peaks to discover nature's lush mountain treasures. Thanks to its modest gradients, Central Aosta Valley has a multitude of bodies of water and protected areas that create a promised land for passing birds and rare plant species.

This area of graceful wonder speaks out through multicoloured arboretums and wooded parks, where noble trees stretch out their wise, mighty roots, ready to embrace and veil you among the delicate rustling of their leaves.

Ascent to Cunéy Hut »
Saint-Barthélemy



LES ILES NATURE RISERVE

Wings beat, feathers flutter, a fish darts in rippling water: the lakes of enchanting Les Îles nature reserve await you with their elegant herons and multicoloured mallard ducks.

SAINT-MARCEL



LOSON POND

A sun-kissed nature reserve surrounded by rare local plant species where you can listen to the low croaking of frogs and watch the weightless dance of shimmering dragonflies.

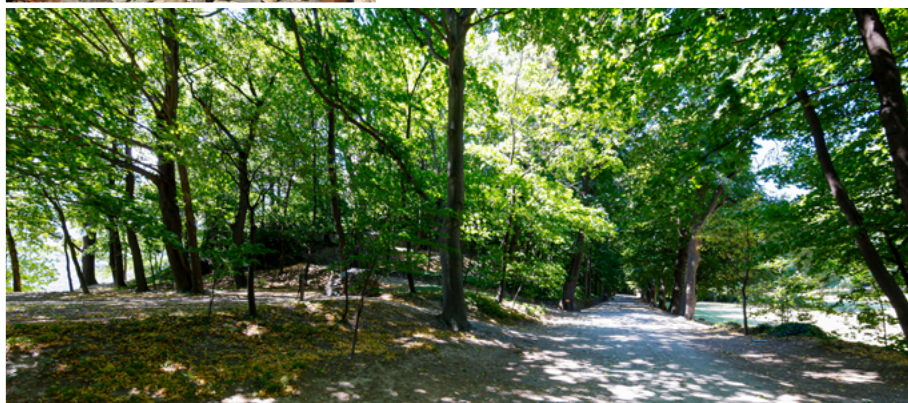
VERRAYES



ABBÉ VESCOZ ARBORETUM

VERRAYES

In the region's oldest arboretum, which houses thousands of exotic trees, delicate branches and leaves an infinity of shades become entwined.



PASSERIN D'ENTREVES PARK

CHÂTILLON

Imagine strolling through a magic corridor of trees, among the pleasant fronds of gnarled giants whose age and majesty leave you speechless ...

COL TZECore AND CHAMPLONG PICNIC AREA

CENTRAL AOSTA VALLEY

An outdoor lunch among wooden tables warmed by the sun, troughs gushing the purest water - this is what awaits you at Émarèse and Verrayes picnic areas...

PURE ENERGY

THE NEW FRONTIER OF SLOW TOURISM

This is a quiet valley where nothing is extreme and therefore perfect for everyone suitable for everyone. The surrounding mountains are accessible and liveable, and the mild and pleasant natural landscape makes the vast parks ideal places for enjoyable walks. In a place where nothing is excessive, even recreational activities are more relaxing: soft expanses for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing turn into perfect Nordic walking or cycle trails in spring; well-groomed mule tracks are wonderful for horse rides; even the water courses and clouds offer numerous, unexpected forms of recreation...

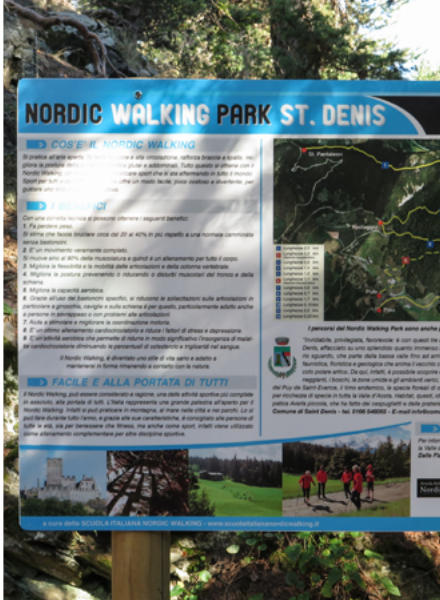
Cycle/pedestrian track »
Fénis



NORDIC WALKING PARK

If this is a sport you love then stop off at Champlong, where a network of winding panoramic roads take you and your poles through old larches, picturesque huts, lush mountain passes and spectacular glades.

VERRAYES



PEDAL ALONG CYCLE PATHS AND ROADS

Metalled roads alternate with charming cycle paths – the same one that meanders through broad fields, lush forests and magnificent scenery beside the River Dora Baltea as far as Aosta.

CENTRAL AOSTA VALLEY

SKIING IN CERVINIA

A height of 3,883 metres, 360 km of runs and an international link to Switzerland: one of the most awesome ski areas of the Alps awaits you in Cervinia – and where you can enjoy the snow 365 days a year.

BREUIL-CERVINIA



A STEP AWAY

PARAGLIDING AND HANG-GLIDING

Prepare to be lulled by the sky's gentle breath as you softly glide among the clouds and your eyes fill with the world's wonders: gravity can't wait to launch you its challenge at Châtillon!

CENTRAL AOSTA VALLEY



ANGLING

Are you a passionate angler? Then get out your best gear as you'll be needing it in the sky-blue waters of Châtillon lake where golden-eyed trout abound!

CHÂTILLON



A STEP
AWAY

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Let's bet that you're convinced you've ended up in a fairy tale when carving through the corridors of snow-laden trees at Saint-Barthélemy and Brusson.

CENTRAL AOSTA VALLEY



HORSE RIDING

If you're picturing a run-of-the-mill riding lesson, then you're well off the mark because in Saint-Vincent you can do real pony trekking while discover isolated villages, proud mansions and quaint towns.

CENTRAL AOSTA VALLEY

OTHER SPORTS ACTIVITIES

If you like to keep fit or try out new sports while on holiday, then Central Aosta Valley has an endless number of sporting pursuits for you to try.

CENTRAL AOSTA VALLEY



DELICIOUS INSPIRATION

DESIRE FOR FLAVOUR

They are delicious and famous throughout Italy, their sweet crunchiness makes them hard to resist – we're talking about *torcetti* from Saint-Vincent, a genuine delicacy that leaves sugary traces on your fingers like tiny, flavoursome diamonds.

They're excellent biscuits for teatime or to have with a herbal tea (perhaps thyme, which grows wild in Verrayes). It grows so profusely that a festival: *Fête de la sarioula* is held in its honour and is a must if you want to discover its many uses, and find out how it can be used in unusual combinations, from starters to puddings.

Torcetti biscuits »
Saint-Vincent



HISTORY ROLLS ON

AMONG TOWERS, RAMPARTS AND DRAWBRIDGES

Welcome to the valley of castles where worldly strongholds, glorious mansions and princely palaces flourish. You may feel the presence of some a little intimidating but others, whose ruins are framed by ivy and frescoes gripped in time, awaken feelings of shrouded nostalgia.

Not far from such ancient magnificence you'll find a gust of brilliant modernity: grand gambling halls, a luxurious wellness centre and futuristic telescopes. And if that's still not enough, you can explore dark mines, ancient crypts and heavenly shrines...

Rural architecture »



USSEL CASTLE

It resembles a red kite perched on a leafy nest of rock and shrubs. Guards' footsteps, lookouts' cries and clanking prisoners' chains still echo inside its walls...

CHÂTILLON



CASINÒ

Roulette, black jack, poker: these are some of the games you'll find in the electrifying and refined gambling halls of Saint-Vincent's Casino – the flagship of Europe's gaming houses.

SAINT-VINCENT

THERMAL SPA

Soak in the waters of Saint-Vincent's thermal spa where a series of warm caresses abounding in relaxing properties takes you from bubbling hydro massage baths to reinvigorating water jets to relaxing panoramic terraces.

SAINT-VINCENT



CLY CASTLE

Noble families, fierce tyrants and dreaded witches have lived their lives within the walls of this castle, which is one of the most ancient in the Aosta Valley. On cloudy days it bears a resemblance to a stone ghost emerging from the fog.

SAINT-DENIS

SERVETTE MINING SITE

An adventurous journey into the bowels of the earth along gloomy tunnels and trembling flames; explore dusty mines where you can lose yourself among glittering gems and the chinking of picks...

SAINT-MARCEL



A STEP
AWAY



A STEP
AWAY

FÉNIS CASTLE

With its crenellated walls, guards' walkways, soaring towers and frescos that tell tales of dragons and princesses, this is the most visited castle in the Aosta Valley. If you're looking for a fairytale place, well, now you've found it.

FÉNIS

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY

Come and help research the mysteries of the universe: let yourself be taken on a suggestive visit to elusive constellations, gigantic planets and fiery stars.

SAINT-BATHÉLEMY



A STEP
AWAY



A STEP
AWAY

MAV

Once upon a time there was traditional handicraft with its wooden statues, iron sculptures and bygone farm tools. Told by one of the most extraordinary museums ever, the history of craftsmanship becomes wonderful and awe-inspiring.

FÉNIS

SAINT-MARCEL CASTLE

Watching over the mines stands this bulky stone guardian - stocky and squat. Although it is now in a poor state of conservation, it still retains the charm of ancient glories. It is presently closed to the public.

SAINT-MARCEL

A STEP AWAY



PLOUT SHRINE

Imposing paintings, well-lit domes and gilded statues embellish this site of sacred memory where you breathe an atmosphere steeped in miracles and fervent devotion.

SAINT-MARCEL

A STEP AWAY



PILATO CASTLE

Climb the ladder to the ramparts and take a look at the ruined crenellations of this legendary fortress that was once the scene of fires and violent tragedies.

NUS

A STEP AWAY



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE BENEATH THE CHURCH

Many secrets are held beneath Saint-Vincent. Every age has left an increasingly remarkable trace: prehistory, the Roman Era, the Middle Ages. It's up to you to discover them.

SAINT-VINCENT

MARSEILLER FORTIFIED HOUSE

White steeds, noble coats-of-arms and brave knights are what remains of the frescoes embellishing this historical fortified house - Maison Saluard.

VERRAYES

ABBÉ TRÈVES STUDY CENTRE

A cultural centre dedicated to audacious Abbé Trèves – Aosta Valley's Gandhi who fought for schooling, women's rights and the poorest social groups.

EMARÈSE



NO ADULTS ALLOWED

LONG LIVE DREAMS!

What if I told you a world exists where you're likely to bump into princesses and pirates? Or a town where children become mayors and police officers, taking home a bounteous loot of balloons and sweets?

Don't miss wonderful Fiabosco at Col du Joux, an amusement park where fairytales come to life. Not far away there's fantastic Joux Park, with its adventure trails, treasure hunts and outsize games. If you should go to Saint-Vincent then be ready to take part in the incredible Children's Carnival where children take possession the town for an entire week...

Children's educational »
workshop





Saint-Barthélemy Astronomical Observatory

IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

Get ready to make an extraordinary holiday even more out of the ordinary...



FESTIVAL OF OUR LADY ON MONTE ZERBION

Every summer pilgrims climb to the summit of Monte Zerbion to celebrate Mass before the statue of Our Lady, at a height of 2,722 metres...

JULY

FÊTE DU RESÉN

In the homeland of one of the Aosta Valley's most famous wines, a wonderful grape festival is held offering tastings of the best local labels, along with sports competitions, dance evenings and workshops.

SEPTEMBER



FESTIVAL OF HONEY AND ITS BY-PRODUCTS

Show cooking, tastings, themed suppers and a busy market colour the streets of Châtillon yellow in honour of the Aosta Valley's fragrant honey.

OCTOBER



MISTLETOE FESTIVAL

A magic festival dedicated to mistletoe, where enchanting dances, bewitching music and mysterious Druidical bonfires pay tribute to this Celtic tradition.

DECEMBER

Valle d'Aosta
EVENTS

Download the app!





Grand Hotel Bilja



ROMAN AND MEDIEVAL AOSTA

The pulsing heart of the Aosta Valley enraptures with its remains steeped in timeless charm: imposing stone walls, thousand-year-old theatres, medieval towers...



BREUIL-CERVINIA, PURE FUN

The undisputed homeland of mountaineering, Cervinia is not only one of Europe's most popular tourist destinations but part of an international ski area where you can ski all year round.



CHAMOIS: A VILLAGE IN THE CLOUDS

The highest municipality in the Aosta Valley: an enchanting place wholly immersed in nature. As it can only be reached on foot or by cable car, it's an example of environmental sustainability and soft mobility.



A MOUNTAIN OF GOLD AT CHAMOUSIRA

Descend deep into the gloomy underground mines towards the earth's core in search of lost gold, among the sound of rattling wagons and the echo of axes chipping at the rock.



MAGIC FORTRESS OF BARD

An impregnable fortress that still echoes with the thunder of canons, the nervous cry of soldiers, the wailing of prisoners. Today it houses permanent museums and contemporary art exhibitions.

AOSTA

CERVINIA

CHAMOIS

BRUSSON

SAINT-MARCEL

FÉNIS

NUS

VERRAYES

SAINT-DENIS

CHAMBAVE

CHÂTILLON

SAINT-VINCENT

PONTEY

EMARÈSE

BARD

OUTINGS

Visuals: VisaMultimedia.com
Watercolours: F. Vicquéry
Text: M. Lanziani
Photos: G. Antico, D. Arcaio, A. Carmonini, D. D'Acunto, T. Daniel, M. Paladini, D. Pallu, P. Rey, E. Romanzi, M. Spataro, S. Venturini, L. Vicquéry



**OFFICE
DU TOURISME
UFFICIO
DEL TURISMO**

SAINT-VINCENT

Via Roma, 62
11027 Saint-Vincent AO
Tel (+39) 0166 512239
saintvincent@turismo.vda.it

www.lovevda.it

www.bookingvalledaosta.it



Valle D'Aosta



valledaosta_official



**Valle d'Aosta
Vallée d'Aoste**